

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed August 30, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bell (U.S. pat. no. 6,876,239) in view of Staszewski et al. (U.S. pub. no. 2002/0033737; hereinafter, “Staszewski”).

Applicants respectfully submit that Bell, whose filing date is January 16, 2003, is not prior art against the present application, whose priority date is June 19, 2002.

With respect to Staszewski, it will be appreciated that that patent relates to phase-locked loops (PLLs) and digitally-controlled oscillators (DCOs), not to delay-locked loops (DLLs). FIG. 15 in particular, to which the Office Action makes reference, relates to a DCO and the circuit therein is intended to solve spurious tones problems that are peculiar to DCOs. In FIG. 15, the shift register 1306 does not constitute a line of delay cells as claimed in Claim 1 of the present application, and the phase comparator 1504 does not receive the input signal of the delay chain. Moreover, the delay duration of a register in FIG. 15 is a function of the CKVD clock, and not of the signal output from the phase comparator.

The presently claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by Staszewski, and provides various advantages, such as the ability to generate a delayed clock signal having a delay that is easily and economically adjustable, and to generate a delayed clock signal which is devoid of any frequency step or rough variation.

Conclusion

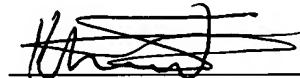
In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP

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Khaled Shami
Reg. No. 38,745

THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 282-1855
Fax. (408) 287-8040